



**Title:** Empowering Livelihood through Sustainable Dairy Farming: The Journey of Lata Uttam Redekar

**Thematic Area:** Women-led Dairy Farming

**Name:** Lata Uttam Redekar

**Address of Correspondence:** Pedrewadi Village, Ajara Taluka, Kolhapur District, Maharashtra – 416505

**Mobile No.:** 8080107077

### **Introduction (Family background, Educational qualification, previous activities/profession)**

Lata Uttam Redekar hails from a humble farming family in the remote village of Pedrewadi, located in Ajara Taluka of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra. With a basic educational background up to the 10th standard, she was engaged in household chores and small-scale farming alongside her husband. Prior to venturing into dairy farming, the family's primary livelihood came from rainfed agriculture and poultry farming since 1992, which provided limited income and minimal security. Motivated by the need to supplement household income and driven by her passion for animals, she envisioned a more stable and dignified livelihood through dairy farming. She is the sarpanch of the Pedrewadi village.

### **Resources Possessed / Socio-Economic Profile**

<b>Resource Type</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Land</b>	04 acres of semi-irrigated land
<b>Irrigation Source</b>	Borewell with submersible pump
<b>Animals</b>	Initially 10 Murrah breed buffalo, now 170 dairy animals (Murrah (140) and HF (30))
<b>Machinery/Equipment</b>	Milking machine, chaff cutter, fodder cutter, small biogas unit
<b>Family Members</b>	9 (6 adults and 3 school-going children)
<b>Housing</b>	Pucca house with separate shed for cattle

### **Source of Motivation to Adopt Occupation and Training Received**

Lata was in search of additional income and apart from poultry she decided to start Dairy farming and started in 2022 with 10 murrah buffalo purchased from Haryana state. With good results and greater performance of animals she increased the number upto 100 with some technical help from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kaneri, Kolhapur and financially (Rs. 40,000 per animal) through Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd, well known with its popular brand "Gokul". She received other technical helps in regards to veterinary and AI (Artificial Insemination) services, supply of balanced cattle feed and fodder seeds, clean milk production training, buy-back arrangements for milk produced, technical guidance on farm setup and expansion and access to government schemes through the dairy cooperative network.

## Technology and Innovations Adopted with Description Stepwise

1. **Scientific Animal Rearing:** Introduction of high-yielding crossbred cows (Murrah and HF) with regular vaccination and deworming schedules.
2. **Clean Milk Production:** Adoption of stainless-steel utensils, regular animal bathing, udder hygiene, and milking machine use.
3. **Balanced Feeding:** Use of green fodder (Sugarcane, Napier, maize), dry fodder, mineral mixture, and bypass protein supplementation.
4. **Fodder Cultivation:** Dedicated 2 acre for green fodder; seasonal rotation for optimal yield and purchase of fodder from others farmers.
5. **Record Keeping:** Maintains a daily log of milk production, feed input, and animal health parameters.
6. **Direct Marketing:** Supply of fresh milk to Gokul and milk cooperatives of village.

## Achievements / Results

### Milk Production & Sales (Litres/Day):

Year	No. of Animals	Avg. Production/day (litres)	Milk Sold/day	Rate (Rs./litre)	Daily Income (Rs.)
2022-23	10	15	150	40	6,000
2023-24	40	16	640	52	33,280
2024-25	120	16	1920	60	1,15,200

### Annual Income & Expenditure (approximate):

Year	Gross Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Net Profit (Rs.)
2021-22	16,20,000	9,72,000	6,48,000
2022-23	89,85,600	53,91,360	35,94,240
2023-24	31,104,000	18,662,400	12,441,600

### Marketing Strategy:

- Milk directly being sold to Milk cooperative of the village and they sell it to Gokul, Kolhapur.

### Contributing Factors for Success of Enterprise

- **Family Support:** Husband and elder son assist in feeding, cleaning, and marketing.
- **Government Support:** Subsidy for purchase of animal through Gokul, Kolhapur.
- **Training and Expert Guidance:** Regular consultation with veterinarians and KVK experts.
- **SHG & Bank Credit:** Working capital through SHG savings and linkage with a cooperative bank for livestock loan.

### Award / Recognition Received

- **'Best Women Dairy Farmer Award-2024'** by Indian Dairy Association (West Zone).
- **Recognition Certificate-2025** for significant contribution in women-led dairy farming by KVK, Kaneri, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- **'Samvedana Kamal Purskar'** from samvedana Foundation, Ajara (2025)

## Importance for Other Farmers

Lata's journey has become a model of rural self-reliance and women empowerment. She actively mentors 25+ women farmers from neighboring villages. Through her guidance, three new women-led dairy units have been initiated. Her emphasis on hygiene, record-keeping, and technology adoption has influenced many young farmers in Ajara block to take up scientific dairy farming.

(Prepared By: Dr. Ravindra Singh and Dr. Sunil Kumar, KVK, Kaneri, Kolhapur, Maharashtra)

